

Aggie Football

E D

2011 AGGIE FOOTBALL GUIDE

CYRUS GRAY (SR)
Running Back

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For more information contact **Kevan Benkowitz '98** (972-712-1221 or Kevan@kiblaw.com), **Eric Friesen '01** (817-825-3383 or cajunaggie01@gmail.com), **Cathy Capps '85** (979-846-3024 or Ccapps@athletics.tamu.edu) or **John Mayfield '58** (972-841-6223 or jcm58ag1@verizon.net)

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WHOOOP!

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Aggie Football Guide

In-depth analysis of each position, projected depth chart, game previews, keys to success and more for your top 10 Texas Aggie football team.

BY JEREMY KSONDA '04, JASON MCCONNELL '01 AND BRIAN DAVIS '01

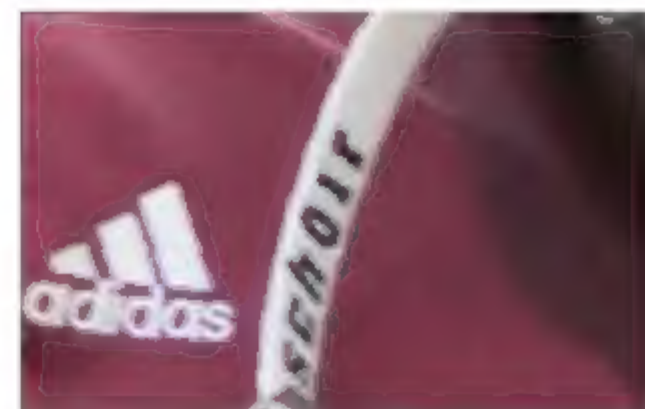
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FIND THE 01

On the Cover: Senior Cyrus Gray is poised for a special season. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

Check out AI's first-ever
Gameday Fashion Guide
starting on page 17.



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Howdy!

Or should this say, bye bye Big 12? We held this issue up as long as we could, hoping to include coverage of Texas A&M University officially joining the Southeastern Conference. Everyone knows it's inevitable at this point, but it's a matter of when all the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted. Heck, with the way things happen around here, it's likely that it will be official by the time you read this.

So, instead of focusing on if and when, here are a few reasons why the Aggies are ultimately looking at the Big 12 in their rear-view mirror while on the road to the SEC.

1. **Conference stability.** The truth is, if the Big 12 were a stable conference with a bright outlook, the A&M administrators would love nothing more than to keep the status quo. However, it's obvious that the Big 12 is not built to last much longer, while the SEC is the strongest conference in the country.
2. **National visibility.** No matter how you slice it, being the one and only Texas school in the premier conference in the land will improve A&M's visibility drastically. In addition to the national attention the conference receives, the Aggies' television opportunities will be greatly increased.
3. **Maximizing revenue.** Speaking of TV, Texas A&M is joining a conference with equal revenue sharing – something the Aggies unsuccessfully pushed for in the Big 12. To help keep A&M in the conference last summer, Dan Beebe offered the Aggies, Sooners and Longhorns the biggest pieces of the pie (most likely in the form of IOUs). Once television deals are renegotiated in the SEC, A&M will earn more than they would have in the current Big 12, and with everyone sharing revenue equally – a novel concept.

While there was plenty of fan outcry for the Aggies to bolt for the SEC last summer, A&M administrators weren't convinced it was the best move for the university, especially when it appeared like the remaining ten schools were all in it together. However, if they knew then what they know now, I'm confident we would be previewing the Aggies first SEC season in this issue.

I know that Aggies everywhere are ready to embrace the SEC, its storied traditions and everything it has to offer. And I know the AI staff is ready for some SEC road trips.

But first, we have one more year of Big 12 football and what better way to go out then on the very top? Mike Sherman and his staff have assembled the necessary pieces and the program has what it takes to be a champion. Now, as our staff member Gentry likes to put it, it's time to let those boys play some football.

With that, I leave you with our staff predictions for the 2011 Aggie football season:

Macy Savage: 10-3, Big 12 Champs

Losses to Arkansas, Oklahoma and bowl game

Jason McConnell: 10-3

Losses to Arkansas, Oklahoma and in Fiesta Bowl

Kelsey Keene: 11-2

Losses to Arkansas and Oklahoma

Jeremy Ksionda: 10-3

Losses to Arkansas, Oklahoma and in Cotton Bowl

Brian Davis: 10-3, Big 12 Champs

Losses to Arkansas, Kansas State and in Fiesta Bowl

Rob Havens: 13-0, Big 12 Champs and National Champs

Katie McConnell: 11-2, Big 12 Champs

Losses to Oklahoma and in a BCS bowl game

Visit www.aggieilandillustrated.com/blog to see our game by game predictions and add your own if you want.

Gig'em Ags!

Brian '01

Aggieland

ILLUSTRATED

EDITORIAL

Brian Davis '01

Publisher/Editor

brian@aggiemag.com

Jeremy Kslonda '04

Managing Editor

jeremy@aggiemag.com

Jason McConnell '01

Associate Editor/Photo Editor

jason@aggiemag.com

ADVERTISING

Rob Havens '88

Advertising Sales Manager

(979) 229-8046

rob@aggiemag.com

PRODUCTION/CIRCULATION

Kimberly Davis '01

kim@aggiemag.com

Sunnye Davis

sunnye@aggiemag.com

COPY EDITORS

Shawn Kruse '02

bowlerfox@aggiemag.com

Katie McConnell '09

katie@aggiemag.com

ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING EDITOR

Stacey Kslonda '05

stacey@aggiemag.com

MARKETING/EDITORIAL INTERNS

Kelsey Keene '12

kelsey@aggiemag.com

Mindy Magee '12

mindy@aggiemag.com

Macy Savage '12

macy@aggiemag.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Lyssa Hamilton '99

lyssa@aggiemag.com

Gentry "Scoop" Woodard

scoop@aggiemag.com

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FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

BY MACY SAVAGE '12 AND JEREMY KSIONDA '04

Aggie fans have the opportunity to get an early look at the members of the 2012 Texas A&M recruiting class this fall under the Friday night lights. We've compiled the schedules for each current commit, so if you live near any of these areas or are planning any road trips this fall, we recommend you take the opportunity to get a glimpse of these future Aggies in action. And if you're looking for the best matchup involving an Aggie prospect each week, then follow our 2011 football tour:

Week 1: DeSoto vs. Douglass (Sep 05)
Michael Richardson and company at Cowboys Stadium

Week 2: Lake Travis at Aledo (Sep 09)
Michael Wilson and RB Gray. Lake Travis always stout

Week 3: Royal at Hempstead (Sep 16)
Trent Momon is one of the state's best receivers

Week 4: Brenham at Magnolia West (Sep 23)
Brenham features Aggies Troy Green and Adrian Bellard and (probable) Longhorns Malcom Brown and Tim Cole

Week 5: Hightower at Elkins (Oct 01)
Braion Addison vs. Corey Thompson and Mike Matthews

Week 6: John Tyler at Pine Tree (Oct 07)
Eric Davis and East Texas football is a winning combo

Week 7: Hahnville at East St. John (Oct 14)
Darion Monroe is worth the trip to the Pelican State

Week 8: Galena Park at Barbers Hill (Oct 21)
Tyrone Taylor might be better than his twin brother

Week 9: Klein Forest at Dekaney (Oct 28)
Friends and future teammates Matt Davis and Trey Williams face off

Week 10: Blinn vs TBD (Nov 05)
Logan David and the Bucs will be in the JUCO playoffs

mattDAVIS (QB)

Klein Forest (Klein, TX)

Sep 01	at Fort Bend Marshall	7:00 pm
Sep 09	La Porte	7:00 pm
Sep 22	Klein (HC)	7:00 pm
Sep 30	Klein Oak	7:00 pm

Oct 08	at Spring Westfield	7:00 pm
Oct 15	Spring	2:00 pm
Oct 21	Klein Collins	7:00 pm
Oct 28	Spring Dekaney	7:00 pm
Nov 04	at Tomball	7:00 pm

troyGREEN (RB)

adrianBELLARD (OL)
Brenham (Brenham, TX)

Sep 01	at Lamar Consolidated	7:00 pm
Sep 09	at Houston Lamar	7:00 pm
Sep 23	at Magnolia West	7:30 pm
Sep 30	Waller	7:30 pm
Oct 08	at Spring Woods	6:00 pm
Oct 14	at Montgomery	7:30 pm
Oct 21	Northbrook (HC)	7:30 pm
Oct 28	at Magnolia	7:30 pm
Nov 04	Stratford	7:30 pm

jaevonRICHARDSON (WR)

Baytown Lee (Baytown, TX)

Sep 02	at La Porte	7:00 pm
Sep 09	Terry	7:00 pm
Sep 23	at Crosby	7:00 pm
Sep 30	Barbers Hill	7:00 pm
Oct 07	at Dayton	7:00 pm
Oct 14	at North Forest	7:00 pm
Oct 20	King	7:00 pm
Oct 28	at Galena Park	7:00 pm
Nov 04	Goose Creek Memorial	7:00 pm

treyWILLIAMS (RB)

Dekaney (Spring, TX)

Sep 03	at Aldine Nimitz	6:00 pm
Sep 10	College Park	6:00 pm
Sep 23	Spring	7:00 pm
Sep 30	Klein Collins (HC)	7:00 pm
Oct 08	at Klein Oak	2:00 pm
Oct 14	at Tomball	7:00 pm
Oct 20	Klein	7:00 pm
Oct 28	@ Klein Forest	7:00 pm
Nov 04	Westfield	7:00 pm

mikeMATTHEWS (OL)

coreyTHOMPSON (DB)
Elkins (Missouri City, TX)

Sep 03	Lamar	7:00 pm
Sep 08	at Clear Brook	7:00 pm
Sep 16	Duiles	7:00 pm
Sep 23	at Clements	7:00 pm
Oct 01	Hightower	7:00 pm
Oct 15	Willowridge (HC)	7:00 pm
Oct 21	at Marshall	7:00 pm
Oct 29	Kempner	7:00 pm
TBD	TBD	TBD

trentMOMON (WR)

Hempstead (Hempstead, TX)

Sep 02	at Stafford	7:30 pm
Sep 09	at Austin Reagan	7:30 pm
Sep 16	Royal	7:30 pm
Sep 23	Rice	7:30 pm
Sep 30	St. John's	7:30 pm
Oct 07	at Hallettsville	7:30 pm
Oct 14	Van Vleck (HC)	7:30 pm
Oct 21	at Hitchcock	7:30 pm
Oct 28	Industrial	7:30 pm
Nov 04	at Edna	7:30 pm

kimoTIPOTI (OL)

Hurst L.D. Bell (Dallas, TX)

Sep 02	at Carroll	7:30 pm
Sep 09	at Haltom	7:30 pm
Sep 16	Nimitz	7:30 pm
Sep 23	at Grapevine	7:30 pm
Sep 29	Trinity	7:00 pm
Oct 07	at MacArthur	7:30 pm
Oct 14	Richland	7:30 pm
Oct 20	Irving	7:00 pm
Oct 28	Heritage	7:30 pm

michaelWILSON (OL)

Aledo (Aledo, TX)

Sep 02	at Weatherford	7:30 pm
Sep 09	Lake Travis	7:30 pm
Sep 22	at Timber Creek	7:30 pm
Sep 30	Springtown	7:30 pm
Oct 07	Byron Nelson	7:30 pm
Oct 14	at Boswell	7:30 pm
Oct 21	Azle	7:30 pm
Oct 27	at Birdville	8:00 pm
Nov 04	Brewer	7:30 pm

loganDAVID (DT)

Blinn JC (Brenham, TX)

Sep 02	SE Preps (Houston)	7:00 pm
Sep 10	NE Oklahoma A&M	7:00 pm
Sep 17	at Arkansas Baptist	7:00 pm
Oct 01	Navarro College	7:00 pm
Oct 08	Tyler JC (in Bryan)	7:00 pm
Oct 15	Trinity Valley CC	3:00 pm
Oct 22	at Kilgore College	3:00 pm
Oct 29	at Cisco JC	3:00 pm
Nov 05	TBD	TBD

ericDAVIS (DE)

John Tyler (Tyler, TX)

Sep 03	Longview	7:30 pm
Sep 09	Robert E. Lee	7:30 pm
Sep 23	at Hallsville	7:30 pm
Sep 30	Nacogdoches	7:30 pm
Oct 07	at Pine Tree	7:30 pm
Oct 14	at Whitehouse	7:30 pm
Oct 21	Marshall	7:30 pm
Oct 28	at Kilgore	7:30 pm
Nov 04	Jacksonville	7:30 pm

julienOBIOHA (DE)

Brother Martin (LA) (New Orleans, LA)

Sep 02	Gulf Coast, FL	7:00 pm
Sep 10	at St. Augustine	7:00 pm
Sep 16	at Central Lafourche	7:00 pm
Sep 22	at John Ehret	7:00 pm
Sep 29	Higgins	7:00 pm
Oct 07	West Jefferson (HC)	7:00 pm
Oct 14	at Chalmette	7:00 pm
Oct 22	Jesuit	7:00 pm
Oct 28	Greensboro, AL	3:30 pm
Nov 05	at Rummel	TBD

tyroneTAYLOR (DE)

Galena Park (Galena Park, TX)

Sep 01	at Sam Rayburn	7:00 pm
Sep 09	Sharpstown	7:00 pm
Sep 23	King	7:00 pm
Sep 30	at Dayton	7:00 pm
Oct 06	at Goose Creek Memorial	7:00 pm
Oct 14	Crosby	7:00 pm
Oct 21	at Barbers Hill	7:00 pm
Oct 28	Baytown Lee	7:00 pm
Nov 04	at North Forest	7:00 pm

alonzoWILLIAMS (DE)

Abbeville (LA) (Abbeville, LA)

Sep 02	at Iowa	7:00 pm
Sep 09	Westlake	TBD
Sep 16	at Rayne	TBD
Sep 23	at Franklin	TBD
Sep 30	Kaplan	TBD
Oct 07	at Erath	TBD
Oct 14	Patterson	TBD
Oct 21	at North Vermilion	TBD
Oct 28	Berwick	TBD
Nov 04	South Terrebonne	7:00 pm



BY MACY SAVAGE '12

Playing in their final season, Young and **Rachael Balaguer** share their expectations for Aggie soccer in 2011:

RB. Our other transfer Jayne Ead (W 03/01/87
10/01/87) is also a victim of the same crime.

FIGHTING TO THE finish

The Aggie volleyball team is focused on finishing matches as well as they start them in 2011

BY KELSEY KEENE '12

CHELSEA RINGEL (SR)
Outside Hitter

Following a rebuilding year in 2010, the Aggie volleyball team was picked to finish fourth in the Big 12 this season. The team returns all six starters, their libero and 14 of 15 letter winners from last season.

After a disappointing 7-13 record last season, seniors Kelsey Black and Chelsea Ringel know that there is room for improvement this year, and they are very excited about the potential for their team.

"Last season was tough for us coming off the great sophomore season that we had," Black admitted. "It was tough on us emotionally, mentally and physically, but it was a learning experience for all of us."

Having so many players back who are familiar with the system puts the Aggies a step ahead from the beginning.

In addition to Black and Ringel, returning players include juniors Lindsey Miller and Stephanie Minnerly, who started every match at the middle blocker position

last season. Junior Tori Mellinger, who broke Texas A&M's season record with 329 digs last season, returns as the libero. An All-Big 12 honorable mention and a member of the Big 12 Freshman Team last year, Allie Sawatzky is back at setter, as well as sophomore Alhe Freiwald and junior Markie Malone.

Junior Alisia Kastmo and senior Elise Hendrickson shared the right side of net in 2010 and are back this season along with senior Sarah Grace (defensive specialist) and sophomore Kelsey Kinley (serving specialist).

There are a few new faces on the team this season, but they aren't all new to college volleyball. Senior Canthya Roberto previously played at Blinn College, winning two national championships there. She also played in Florida before transferring to Texas A&M.

"She knows the speed of the game and the attitude of the game," Black said.

Junior Megan Pendergast transferred to A&M after two years at former conference rival Nebraska.

"Her attitude for the game and for competition is perfect," Black said.

Hannah Hood from Austin Westlake High School is the only freshman to join the team this season. Head coach Laurie Corbelli, now in her 19th season at the helm of the Aggies, says while Hood may be the lone freshman, she certainly doesn't show it.

"You would think she has been here for years, and she is not shy at all to share her talent and her excitement. She is going to fit in just beautifully."

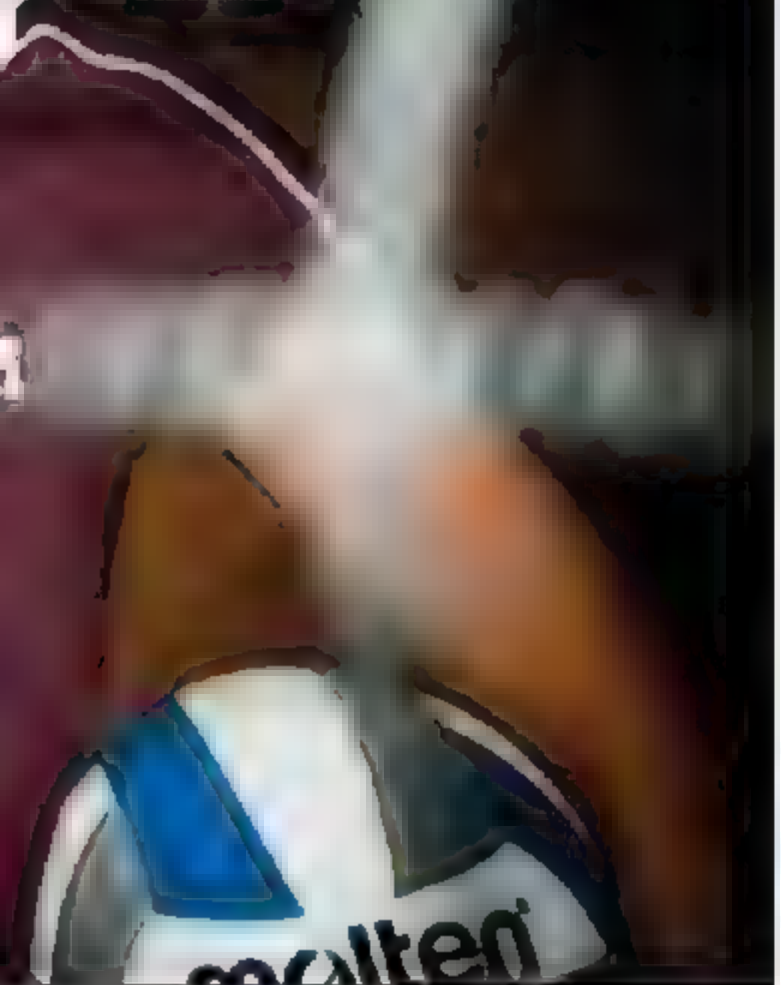
Despite a mix of different personalities, the group has shown great chemistry—a big key to having a successful program.

"Our team meshes very well," Ringel said. "We balance each other out."

The Aggies also have a new assistant coach, Steve Greene, who previously



KELSEY BLACK (SR)
Outside Hitter



coached at Houston Baptist.

"He brings a newness to the game and to our program," Black said. "You can tell that he really enjoys being out here."

The Aggies' success this season hinges on lessons learned from one year ago.

"We learned that when we would get in a rut, we would get very serious and not play to the best of our abilities," Ringel admitted. "We spent the spring working on just letting things happen and not getting uptight or stressed about it. That's really changed the direction of our team."

Black adds that for the program to get back to where it wants to be, the Aggies will have to "finish."

"We were right there against everyone last season, but we couldn't keep it going to the end," she said. "We started great but couldn't finish. This season, we are going to approach those last 15 points as little games to five that we have to start well and win. We just have to finish." ■

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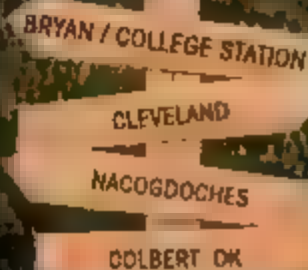
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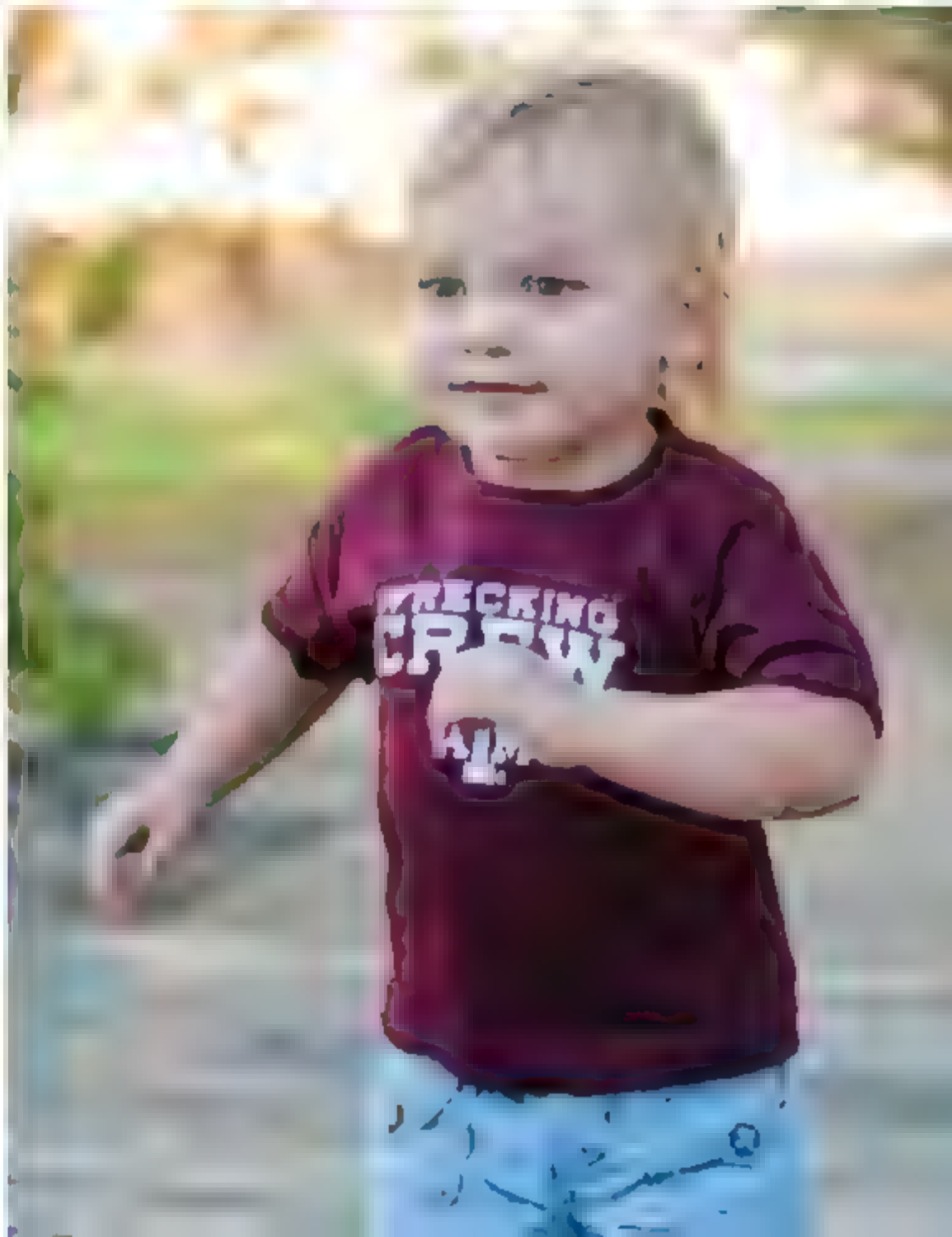
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JASON MCCONNELL '01
MACY SAVAGE '12

12th Man Old English Criss Cross Tank in gray (also available in maroon); S/M/L; clutchcampus.com; 1-888-406-7576. NECKLACE: Marco Bicego 18K Yellow Gold Necklace with an Aggie Maroon Garnet; WATCH: Caber diamond bezel Michel watch with a mother of pearl face and Roman numbers on a black leather quilted strap; BRACELET: Handcrafted yellow gold 3-strand bracelet by Italian designer, Marco Bicego. Features rich colored stones and flat satin-brushed finish; RINGS: 18K yellow satin gold Marco Bicego stackable rings in pave diamond and red garnet; davidgardenersjewelers.com; 979-268-0800. (facing page, top, left to right) Aggies Double Ruffle Gameday Dress; White Ruffle Howdy! Gameday Dress; Maroon and Black Whoop V Neck Gameday Dress; XS/S/M/L; pruittsfabric.com; 979-693-9357. JEWELRY: davidgardenersjewelers.com; 979-268-0800. (bottom left) Texas Aggies Purple T-Shirt; S/M/L/XL/2XL; octentsale.com; 1-800-324-1268. EARRINGS: Classic David Yurman Silver and 18K yellow gold half hoop earrings from the Crossover collection; BRACELETS: David Yurman 5mm cable bracelets; WATCH: Stainless steel and yellow gold 46mm Rolex Daytona; RING: Silver and yellow gold David Yurman Jet Set garnet ring with classic cable shank from Noblesse collection; davidgardenersjewelers.com; 979-268-0800. (bottom right) Texas A&M Ruckering Crew Maroon Toddler T-shirt; XS/1Y/2Y/3Y; lennupac.com; 1-888-210-1300.

Favorite gameday moment

It's the first time at the stadium for taking good old Aggie good time.
 —Katie







total carat weight diamond hoop earrings in white gold; NECKLACE: 48-Inch Pearl and Silver Quatrefoil Chain by David Yurman; BRACELET: David Yurman Classic Cable 5mm Silver bracelet with diamonds; WATCH: Michele Deco Watch with the classic white face, diamond markers and bezel on a white quilted leather strap; RING: Moonlight Ice Silver 17mm Albion Ruby Ring by David Yurman; davidgardnersjewelers.com, 979-268-0800. (bottom right) Texas A&M T-shirt in black; SMALL/XL/2XL; HAT: White Cap - ATM with Gig'Em on Bill; cctentsale.com, 1-800-324-1268. EARRINGS: Brushed 18K Yellow Gold Hoop Earrings from Marco Bicego's Jaipur Collection; BRACELET: Handcrafted yellow gold 3-strand bracelet by Italian designer, Marco Bicego features rich colored stones and flat satin beads; davidgardnersjewelers.com, 979-268-0800



Favorite gameday moment

"When the Aggie Band leads the team on to the field and the whole stadium is clapping along to the fight song."



Favorite gameday moment

Interview

"Watching the Aggies

play with all my

friends and family

is always



No. 12 Women's Replica Fashion Football Jersey Maroon, M/L/XL/2XL, HAT: White Cap - ATM with Gig'Em on Bill; cctentsale.com, 1-800-324-1268. EARRINGS: 2.80 total carat weight diamond hoop earrings; BRACELET: David Yurman Classic Cable 5mm Silver bracelet with diamonds; RING: Moonlight Ice Silver 17mm Albion Ruby Ring by David Yurman, davidgardenersjewelers.com, 979-268-0800. **(top left)** Maroon Howdy Gameday Dress with Zebra Accents, XS/S/M/L, pruittsfabric.com, 979-693-9357. EARRINGS: Classic David Yurman Silver and 18K yellow gold half hoop earrings from the Crossover collection. NECKLACE: 18K yellow gold and silver dog tag pendant by David Gardner '78 with stamped A&M logo and David Gardner Original 18K Yellow Gold and Diamond A&M Dog Tag Pendant. WATCH: Caber diamond bezel Michele watch with a mother of pearl face and Roman numbers on a black leather quilted strap. BRACELETS: Classic bracelets in white and yellow gold with diamonds by up and coming Aggie jewelry designer, Katie Decker. RING: 18K yellow gold large bezel set red Garnet ring with a cable shank by David Yurman; davidgardenersjewelers.com, 979-268-0800. **(top right)** Clutch Cowl Neck Dress with the Aggie Star Logo on the Pockets; XS/S/M/L/XL; clutchcampus.com, 1-888-406-7576. EARRINGS: Brushed 18K Yellow Gold Hoop Earrings from Marco Bicego's Jaipur Collection; NECKLACE: David Gardner Original 18K Yellow Gold and Diamond A&M Dog Tag Pendant; BRACELETS: Stacked hammered 18K yellow gold bangle bracelets with mixed stones; davidgardenersjewelers.com, 979-268-0800.

Favorite gameday moment

There is no better experience than

watching the Aggies play

with all my friends and family

is always

Aggie



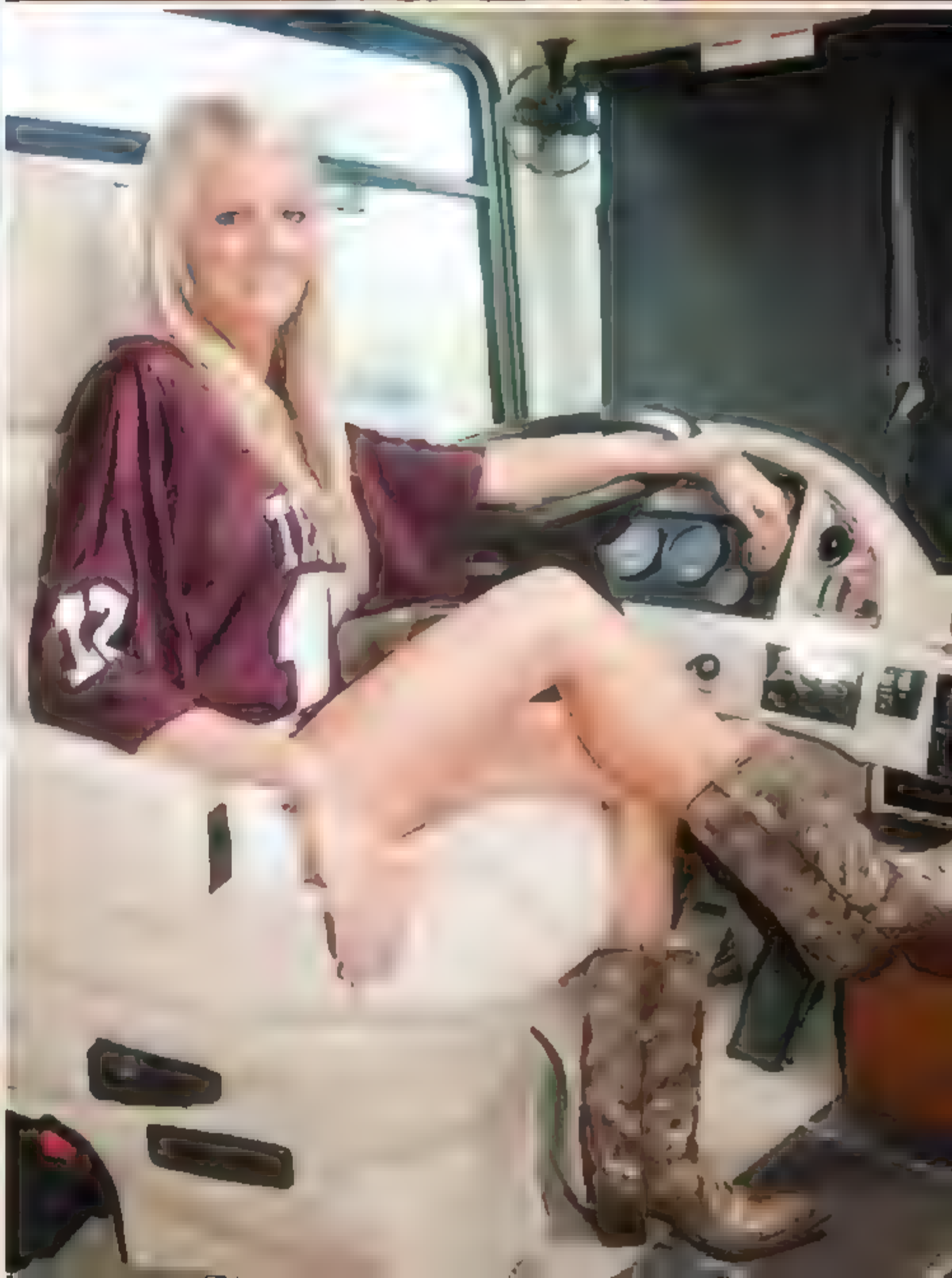
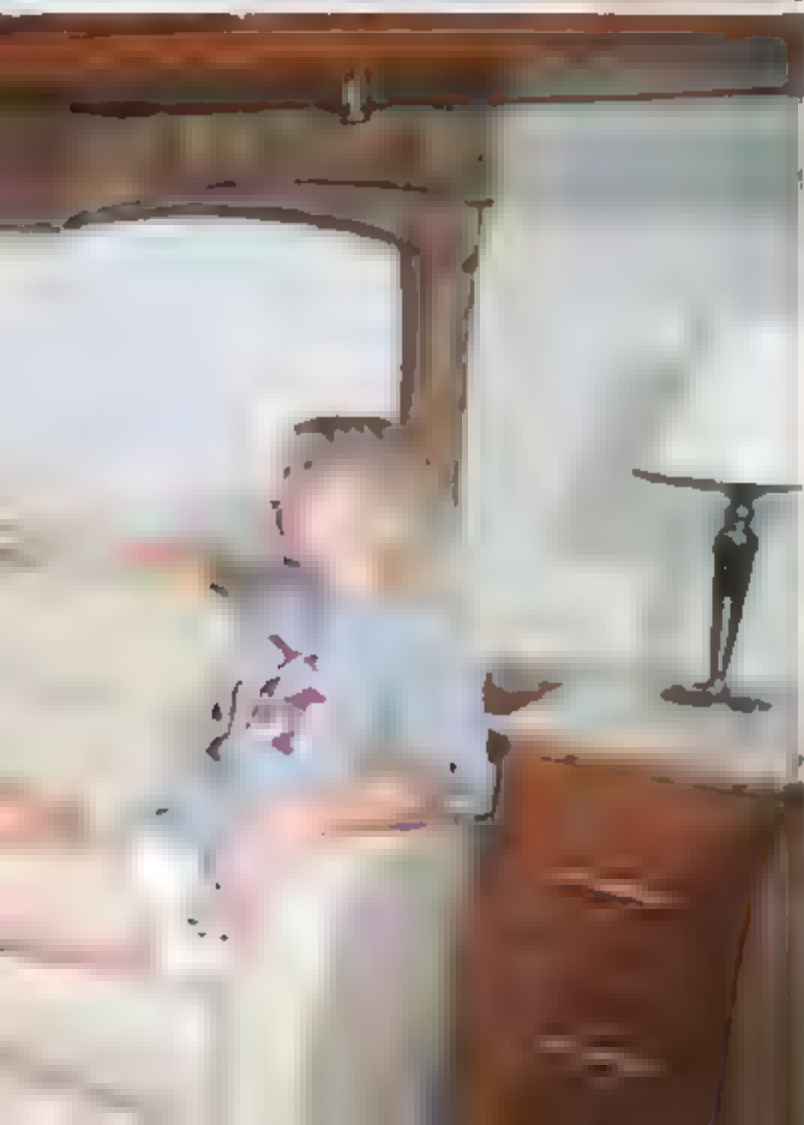
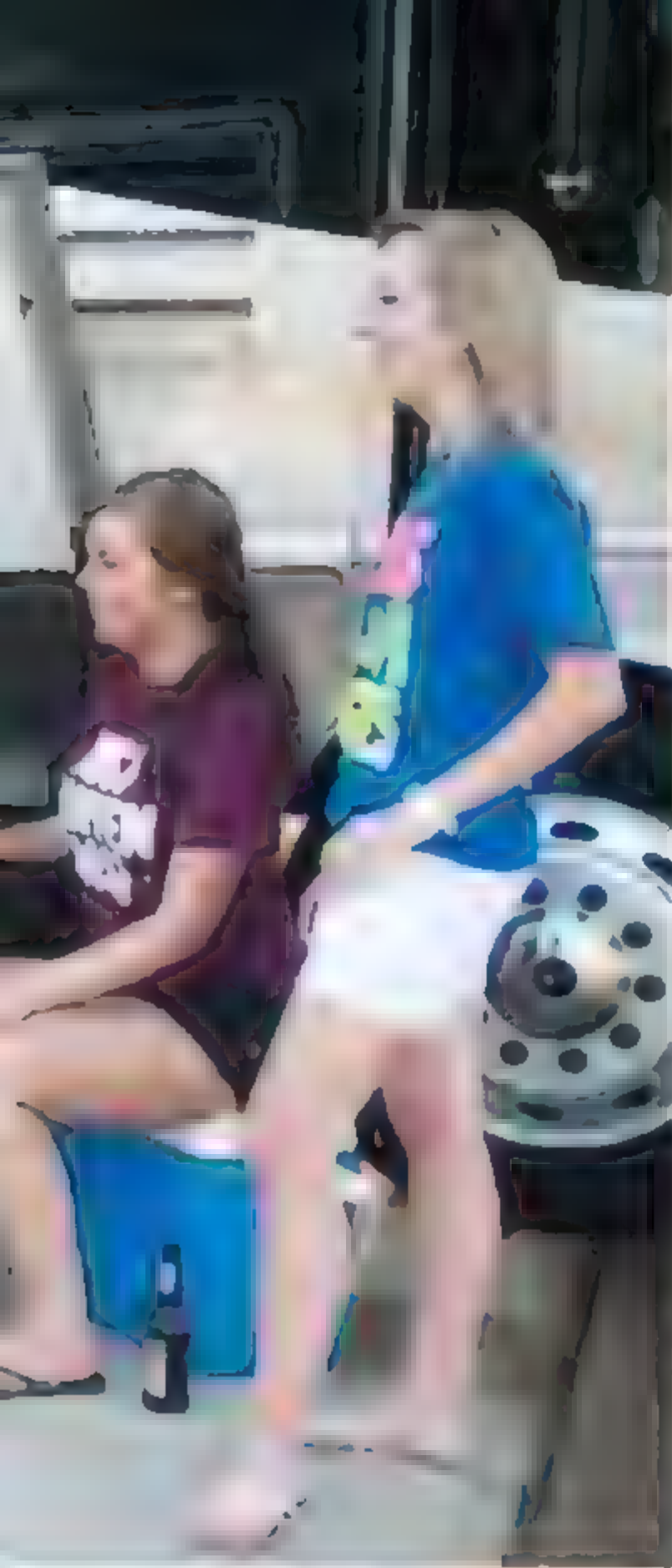


(above, left to right) No. 17 Adidas Men's Replica Football Jersey Aggie's ATM White Neon Yellow T-Shirt Maroon Adidas ATM Oatmeal T-Shirt Just Nguyen Aggie's T-Shirt Bright Blue TAMU Aggie's T-Shirt S/M/L/XL/2XL. cctentsale.com 1-800-324-1268 EWELETV davidgardnersjewelers.com 979-268-0800



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Favorite gameday moment

As a Nittany Lion fan, I love the student body coming together and cheering for the team. I remember the Aug. 10 game after we won the game. Seeing the crowd and the excitement of the game was a great moment. I was sitting in the stands and watching the game. It was a great experience and I will never forget it.



Favorite gameday moment

Waiting my senior home
and take the team
out me during the
Aggie game. We're happy
to be back for the Aggie
game.

Arched Texas A&M Maroon Hooded
sweatshirt; S/M/L/XL/2XL/3XL/4XL; tamugear.com,
1-888-210-1590. BRACELETS: A classic collection
David Yurman 10mm silver and yellow
gold cable bracelets with pave diamonds,
large pearls tips and yellow gold stations;
davidyurman.com, 979-268-0800.
(facing page, top left) Howdy Gingham
sameday Dress; XS/S/M/L; pruittsfabric.com, 979-
693-9357. EARRINGS: David Yurman silver and
rose gold Albion garnet earrings surrounded by
pave garnet stones; NECKLACE: David Yurman
silver tassel pendant with pave diamonds
from the tapestry collection; WATCH: Stainless
steel and yellow gold 40mm Rolex Daytona
watch; BRACELETS: David Yurman 5mm cable
bracelets look great stacked together; RING:
Moonlight Ice Silver 17mm Albion Ruby Ring
by David Yurman; davidyurman.com, 979-268-0800. (top right) Arched Texas A&M
Maroon Infant Onesie; 6M/12M/18M/24M;
tamugear.com, 1-888-210-1590. (bottom, left
to right) 12th Man Old English Crys Cross Tank
in maroon (also available in light gray); S/M/L;
Vintage Aggie Football Burn Out Tee in White;
S/M/L/XL; Aggies Curve Racerback Tank in
Maroon (also available in gray); XS/S/M/L;
XL; dutchcampus.com, 1-888-406-7575.
JEWELRY: davidyurman.com, 979-268-0800.

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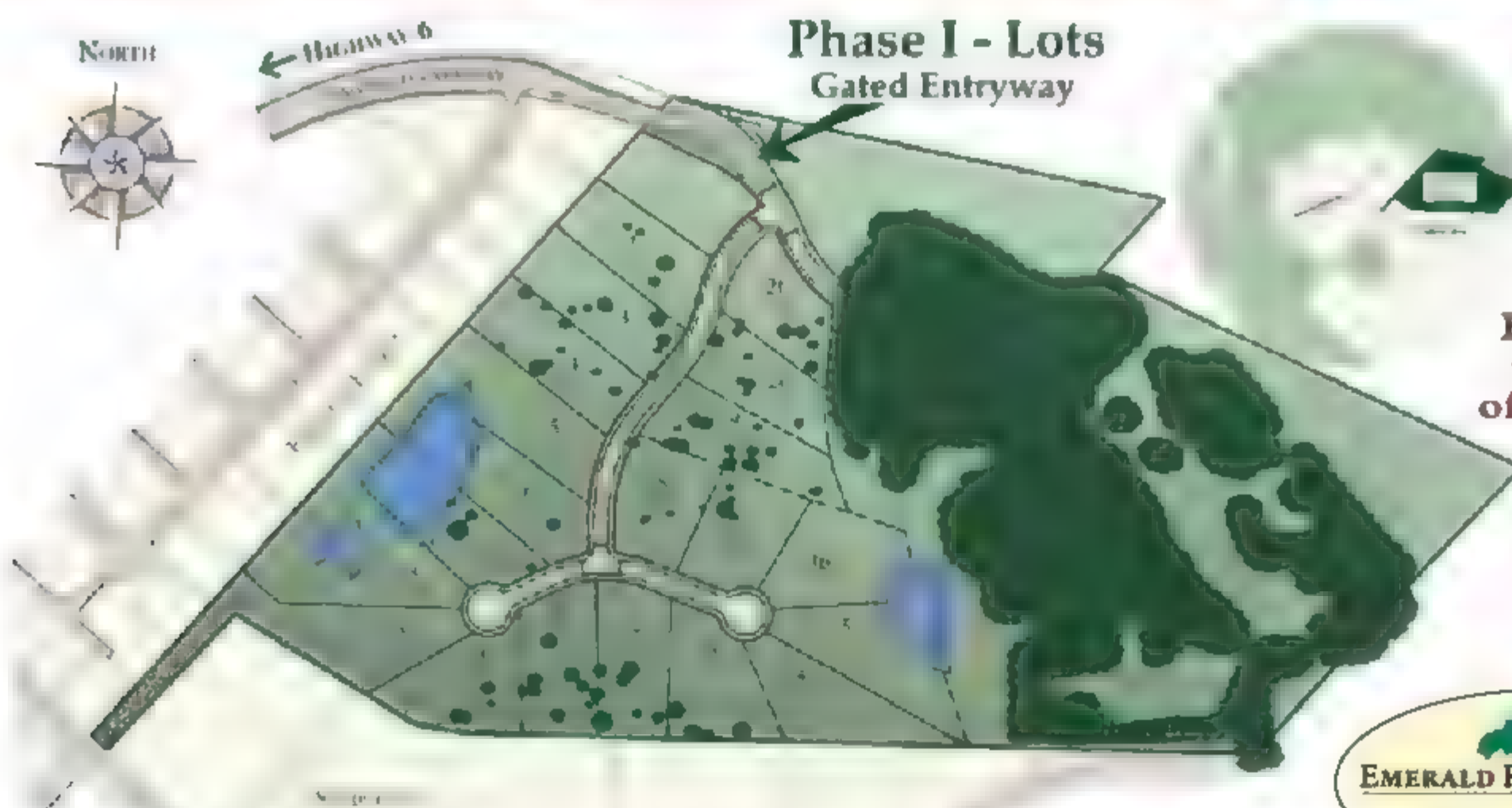
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BY JASON MCCONNELL '01
AND BRIAN DAVIS '01

2011 AGGIE FOOTBALL GUIDE

In Texas A&M's final season in the Big 12, Aggie fans would love nothing more than to go out with a bang and get the best of old foes on the gridiron. For the Aggie coaches and players, however, this season is not about spite or pride. It's about proving that Texas A&M football is back.

Offensively, the Aggies return senior, All-Conference play-makers at quarterback, running back and wide receiver as well as four starters on an offensive line that paved the way for a 100-yard rusher in the final seven games of 2010. Defensively, all three starters along the line are seniors who started last season and three out of four starters in the secondary are senior All-Conference caliber players.

With a top 10 ranking, favorable schedule and a battle tested veteran squad, the Aggies have all the tools to put together a special season in 2011. Hoisting up the Big 12 trophy at season's end would mark the culmination of hard work, mental toughness and precise execution for a group of young men who are truly worthy of calling themselves champions. Going out on top in A&M's final year in the Big 12 would simply be icing on the cake.

Here, in our sixth annual football preview, we take an in-depth

look at the 2011 Fightin' Texas Aggie Football team starting with our five keys to a top five season:

1. **Protect Ryan Tannehill.** The senior quarterback showed that he could take the Aggies to a higher level last season. Keeping him on the field and upright will be the most important component to a championship run.
2. **Focus on the task at hand.** Nebraska let officiating and outside factors take their eyes off of an attainable title in their last season in the Big 12 one year ago. The Aggies can't fall into the same trap if things aren't going their way.
3. **Stay committed to the run.** It's no coincidence that the Aggies' six straight wins and Cyrus Gray's streak of 100-plus yard running games went hand in hand. That has to continue this season.
4. **Shore up the special teams.** Almost without exception, championship teams have solid to great special teams play. The Aggies meet those standards everywhere except punter.
5. **Win in Arlington.** Everyone's looking toward the game in Norman, but a win in Arlington could be the difference in a great bowl bid and a BCS bowl appearance.

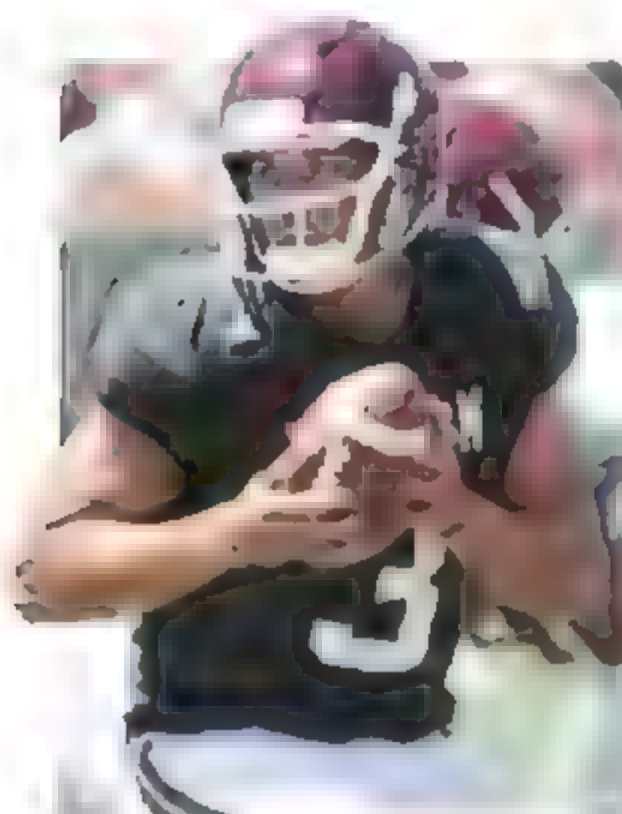


OFFENSE [QUARTERBACK]

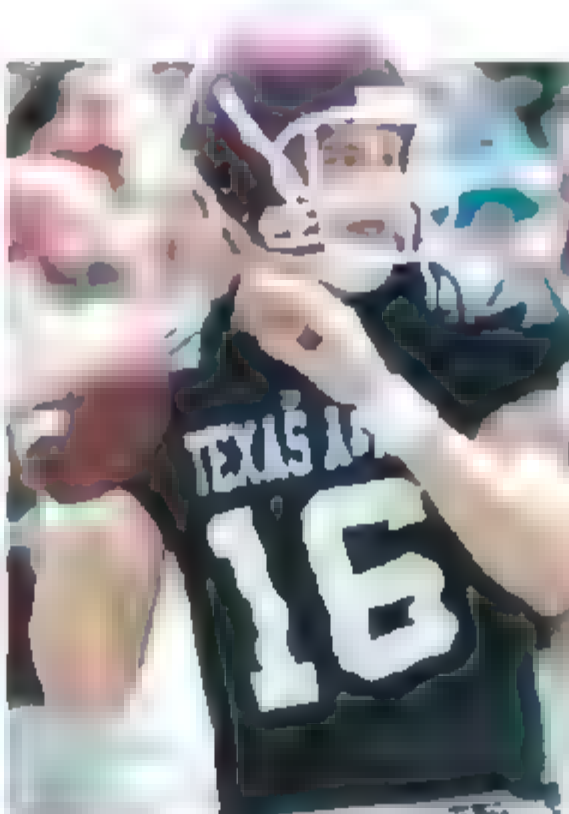
Even though Oklahoma's Landry Jones and Oklahoma State's Brandon Weeden racked up the preseason Big 12 accolades for quarterbacks, just about every offensive coordinator in the conference would give an arm and a leg to have **Ryan Tannehill** under center. When No. 17 took the reins of the Aggie offense in the second half of the Kansas game last season, his quiet confidence spilled over to the rest of the team, resulting in a six-game winning streak that included wins over top ten Oklahoma and Nebraska at home as well as archrival Texas in Austin. After leading the team through spring practice and summer 7-on-7 drills, the senior signal caller put together a string of intense, focused practices during fall camp that drew high praise from Aggie head

coach Mike Sherman.

Behind Tannehill lies a conundrum that every quarterback coach would love to face. A bevy of young talent battled for the backup quarterback job during fall camp, where redshirt freshmen **Matt Joeckel** and **Jameill Showers** made their case on a daily basis, and true freshman **Johnny Manziel** made too many big plays to go overlooked. At the very least, Showers appears to have won the 2A title of second string QB, meaning he will likely get the first opportunity to play, but the backup job is certainly not going to be etched in stone. None of the three quarterbacks possess any in-game experience at this level, which is the ultimate litmus test.



JAMEILL SHOWERS (FR-RS)



MATT JOECKEL (FR-RS)



JOHNNY MANZIEL (FR-HS)

JAMEILL SHOWERS: '01 AND BRIAN DAVIS '01

OFFENSE [QUARTERBACK]

The Starter

RYAN TANNEHILL (#1)

6-4, 222, SR-3L

After finishing the season as the starter, Tannehill was named the Aggie offensive MVP.

First off the Bench

JAMEILL SHOWERS (#2)

6-1, 219, FR-RS

Showers and fellow redshirt freshman Matt Joeckel are essentially on-and-offers.

Waiting in the Wings

JOHNNY MANZIEL (#3)

6-1, 200, FR-HS

Manziel was named the Aggie offensive MVP after leading the team to a 10-2 record.

Preseason Honors

RYAN TANNEHILL (#1)

Allstate AFCA Good Works Award, College Football Performance Award, Davey O'Brien Quarterback Award, Manning Award, Maxwell Award (Outstanding player), Ray Guy Award (Outstanding QB).

Position Grade

Tannehill is rated as a 90 percent quarterback, but he is the only QB on the roster who has played in a game.

Fun Fact

At 6-4, 224 pounds, Tannehill is the heaviest QB in the history of the Aggie offense.

Question Marks

Will the senior quarterback curse finally be broken?

AI's prediction: By the end of the season, Tannehill will have made Aggie fans forget about the disappointing senior seasons of the 2004 and 2005 quarterbacks.

Will Johnny Manziel play or redshirt?

AI's prediction: Although Manziel is a dynamic player who could contribute at several positions, we think he will ultimately redshirt the season and compete for the starting job in 2011.

ALBERTO



CHRISTINE
MICHAEL (JR)

OFFENSE [RUNNING BACK]

If there's a better one-two punch at running back than the two-headed monster that is Cyrus Gray and Christine Michael, we'd love to see it. Gray became a household name after ripping off seven consecutive 100-yard games to close out last season. Unfortunately, his gain came at Michael's expense after the ballyhooed sophomore tailback suffered a broken leg during the middle of the season. As expected, Michael came back with a vengeance during fall camp, sparking one of the biggest questions the Aggie coaches will have to answer – how to divvy up the carries between the two exceptionally talented backs?

If competition makes everyone stronger, then the battle for third string running back is going to cause Ben Malena, Mister Jones and Will Randolph to qualify for the world's strongest man competition. Unfortunately, the Aggies aren't in the market for a weight lifter, although they used to be circa 2002-2007. What running backs coach Randy Jordan is looking for the most out of the trio of underclassmen is consistency, and so far none of them have been able to emerge from the pack. With Malena having spent the most time in the program, odds are he'll be the first one off the bench when both Gray and Michael need a breather.

Versatile true freshman Howard Matthews – who did a little bit of everything for Clear Springs High School last season – moved over from his safety position in goal line and short yardage situations, and could possibly come in to pick up a few tough yards this fall.

OFFENSE [RUNNING BACK]

The Starter

CYRUS GRAY (#32)

5-10, 200, SR-Sr

The All-Conference back rushed for over 2,000 yards per game in the second half of last season.

First off the Bench

CHRISTINE MICHAEL (#33)

5-11, OL, JR-Jr

There's no question Michael would start at about any school in the country and he may even start some games for the Aggies.

Waiting in the Wings

WILL RANDOLPH (#34)

5-9, 188, FR-HS

Speed, speed and more speed. Randolph had trouble holding on to the football, but when he turns it on, there's nothing to stop him.

Preseason Honors

CYRUS GRAY (#32)

All-Big-12 Team (media)

College Football Performance Award

Boak Walker Award (best running back)

Maxwell Award (outstanding player)

Paul Hanning Award (most versatile player)

Boys' Business Award (outstanding athlete)

CHRISTINE MICHAEL (#33)

Boak Walker Award (best running back)

Position Grade

The Aggies have arguably the best running back tandem in the nation.

A+

Fun Fact

The last Aggie to rush for 1,000 yards in a season is nearly a decade. Junior Cyrus Gray actually played quarterback in 1999 at the College of William & Mary.

Question Marks

How will coaches split carries between senior Cyrus Gray and a healthy junior Christine Michael?

AI's prediction: Sure, it's a great problem to have, but in Michael's absence last season, Gray clearly showed he gets better and better when he gets more carries. While Michael will get plenty of opportunities, Gray will be called on more often.

Who will emerge as the Aggies third running back?

AI's prediction: While we don't place much value on game-breaking speed, sophomore Ben Malena will provide the most consistency of any back in the Aggie backfield.



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Offensive MVP

JEFF FULLER (R)
5-4, 220, SR-3L

For the second year in a row, there's a "man among men" on Texas A&M's campus. Only this time, most talented player on the field makes his presence known on the offensive side of the ball. Although it isn't fair to compare the impact Jeff Fuller will make up this year's team to Ron Miller's transcendent performance last season, the senior wideout certainly possesses similar attributes simply put, when a player is dominant as Fuller takes the field, it causes the other team to focus too much time and energy on one individual that it gives everyone else

...the vocal leader

OFFENSE [WIDE RECEIVER]

As Ryan Tannehill attempts to rewrite the passing records in his first and only full season as a starting quarterback, he'll have 95 percent of last year's receiving yardage returning to work with, including the all-time record-holder for touchdown receptions, **Jeff Fuller**. Fuller's return for his senior campaign gave the Aggies a huge shot in the arm, and will be icing on the cake for his already illustrious career in maroon and white. Junior **Ryan Swope** started all 13 games last year and, along with Fuller, set the record for most receptions in a season with 72 – seven more than Rod Bernstine recorded in 1986. Junior **Uzoma Nwachukwu** rounds out the starters for the Aggie receiving corps, and reports out of fall camp indicated that “EZ” came in with a renewed sense of purpose, eager to bust out of his sophomore slump and get back into the limelight from his breakout freshman year.

Behind the starters, there's a host of young talent that is busting at the seams, eager to seize a window of opportunity. Junior **Kenric McNeal** doesn't receive many press clippings, but you won't find a more consistent backup in the Big 12 with as much game-changing ability. Local standout **Brandal Jackson** continues to be one of the most polished wideouts on the roster, and a pair of second year players – **Malcome Kennedy** and **Nate Askew** – have already turned the corner and will be key contributors this season. In the final days of fall camp before game week, Mike Sherman debuted the **Dustin Harris** experiment, sliding the team's returning leader in interceptions over to the offensive side of the ball for a few reps. Sherman quickly liked what he saw from No. 22, and it looks as though he'll be doing his best Charles Woodson impression on both sides of the ball this fall.



RYAN SWOPE (JR)
Wide Receiver

OFFENSE [TIGHT END]

When **Michael Lamothe** of New Iberia, Louisiana, committed to A&M, Les Miles didn't come beating down his doors like several of the other prospects that Mike Sherman has plucked from the Pelican State. Perhaps he should have, however, as the little known recruit that anchored his high school team is now one of the most important pieces of the Aggie offense. The most consistent of the Aggie tight ends, Lamothe does a little bit of everything. From battling in the trenches among the linemen to splitting out wide with the receivers, and even lining up at fullback to fend off linebackers for Christine Michael and Cyrus Gray, Lamothe is an integral part of the Aggies' offensive scheme.

Nehemiah Hicks and **Hutson Prioleau** are both promising sophomores who will split time at tight end when Lamothe is elsewhere on the field or when the Aggies use their power formations. Both provide a big target for Ryan Tannehill down the seam and are a load to bring down in the open field. If they can catch the ball consistently, look for the tight ends to be more involved in the A&M passing game this season.

■ MCCONNELL 21

OFFENSE [WIDE RECEIVER]

Projected Starters

JEFF FULLER (#8)
5-4, 220, SR-3L

The Aggies got a big commitment from him of their own when Fuller announced he was returning to his alma mater.

RYAN SWOPE (#25)
5-0, 206, JR-2L

UZOMA “EZ” NWACHUKWU (#1)
6-0, 194, JR-2L

First off the Bench

KENRIC MCNEAL (#5)
5-1, 184, JR-2L

Waiting in the Wings

MALCOLME KENNEDY (#84)
5-0, 196, FR-RS

The versatile sophomore has enjoyed a huge breakout in his first year as a wideout and Aggie returner.

Preseason Honors

JEFF FULLER (#8)

Biletnikoff Award (outstanding receiver)
College Football Performance Award
Maxwell Award (outstanding player)
Pony Express Award (outstanding player)
Water Gage Player of the Week

RYAN SWOPE (#25)

Biletnikoff Award (outstanding receiver)
College Football Performance Award

Fun Fact

All-American Jeff Fuller will likely hold even major career receiving record before he leaves Aggeland. He needs 337 yards and 10 receptions to grab the A&M career marks in both categories. And to think Fuller was on the way to becoming an Oklahoma Sooners!

Mike Sherman tweeted.

Position Grade



Jeff Fuller, Ryan Swope, Uzoma Nwachukwu, and a bevy of young talent make this a strong and deep position for the Aggies.

Question Marks

How will coaches keep the young receivers happy?

AJ's prediction: If he gets any love from the Aggies, will run a ton of offensive plays the season, as the coaches should be able to keep the young players happy as they step in under the tutelage of their seniors.

What impact will Dustin Harris have on the A&M offense?

AJ's prediction: Harris is a good player, but he can be with the ball in his hands, and interception prone. He may not play a ton of snaps, but he will likely turn in some big plays and help the offense in some ways.

OFFENSE [TIGHT END]

Projected Starters

NEHEMIAH HICKS, TE (#81)

6-4, 249, SO-1L

Hicks is a huge target in the open field and the red zone that the Texas A&M coaches would love to utilize more if his consistency improves.

MICHAEL LAMOTHE, TE/FB (#19)

6-3, 232, JR-2L

The jack-of-all-trades athlete will play a ton for the Aggies this season, whether it's at tight end, wide receiver, fullback or on special teams.

First off the Bench

HUTSON PRIOLEAU (#80)

6-4, 251, SO-1L

Prioleau emerged as one of Ryan Tannehill's favorite targets in the passing game this offseason.

Fun Fact

Michael Lamothe was an All-District football and baseball player at New Iberia High School and finished his senior year with a 3.9 GPA.

Position Grade

B-

Michael Lamothe, Nehemiah Hicks and Hutson Prioleau combine to bring different strengths to the tight end position, but need to improve their consistency in the passing game.

Question Marks

Will one of the tight ends become more of a receiving weapon this season?

AI's prediction: One or both of Nehemiah Hicks and Hutson Prioleau will at least double their reception totals from last season (#4 and 3) as Ryan Tannehill looks for more options in the Aggies' passing attack.

OFFENSE [OFFENSIVE LINE]

Projected Starters

LUKE JOECKEL, LT (#76)

6-6, 310, SO-1L

BRIAN THOMAS, LG (#71)

6-3, 315, JR-1L

PATRICK LEWIS, C (#61)

6-2, 306, JR-2L

SHEP KLINKE, RG (#77)

6-7, 305, SO-1L

JAKE MATTHEWS, RT (#75)

6-5, 305, SO-1L

First off the Bench

EVAN EIKE, G (#65)

6-4, 306, SR-2L

Overcoming injuries and having a long injury layoff in his career in Aggieland, the Bryan High standout has been the definition of reliability and toughness for the Aggies.

Waiting in the Wings

JARVIS HARRISON, G (#51)

6-4, 317, FR-RS

Mike Sherman has repeatedly referred to this young man as a future NFL offensive lineman, even though he's yet to play a down of college football. That's high praise.

Preseason Honors

LUKE JOECKEL, LT (#76)

All-Big 12 Team (media)

Rotary Lombardi Award (best lineman)

Fun Fact

Senior Evan Eike will get to play his final season with his younger brother, Aaron, who is a preferred walk-on for the Aggies. Aaron was a standout at Bryan High last year.

Position Grade

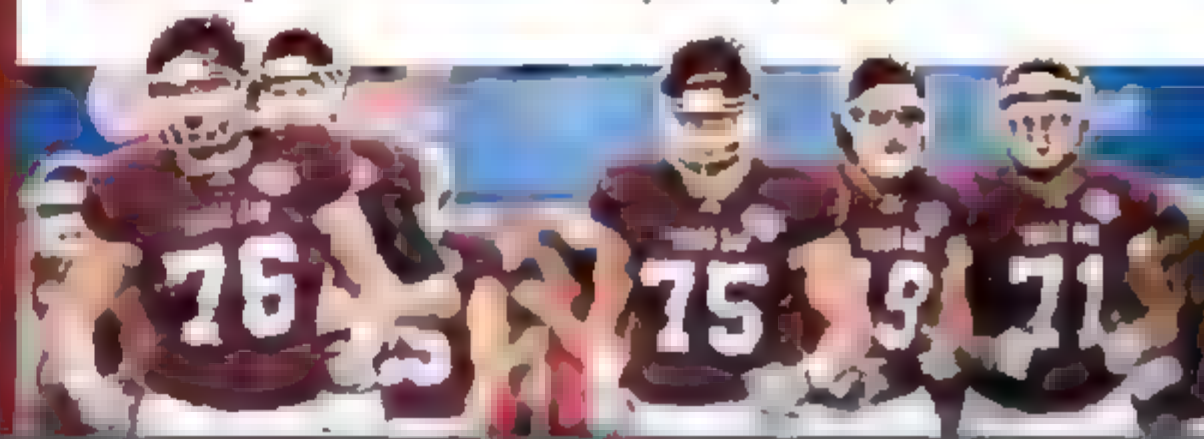
B+

Four of five starters return from a formidable unit last season.

Question Marks

With arguably more talent, will this unit gel like last year?

AI's prediction: It may take a few games, but this group should gel more quickly than last year due to familiarity with each other and the system.



TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL [2014-2015 SEASON]

DEFENSIVE COACHES

Tim DeRuyter - Defensive Coordinator
 Terrell Williams - Defensive Line
 Dat Nguyen - Inside Linebackers
 Nick Toth - Outside Linebackers
 Charles McMillan - Defensive Backs

#1 Steven Campbell
 FS

#11 Aaron Johnston
 SS

#10 Gallo
 X
 JOKER

#10 Gary Williams
 X
 ILB

#10 Jonathan Thomas
 X
 ILB

#10 David Brown
 X
 OLB

#10 Jordan Taylor
 X
 CB

#10 Aaron Matthews
 X
 RDE

#10 Bryan Thomas
 X
 NT

#10 Jeffery Hodge
 X
 LDE

#10 Jordan Taylor
 X
 CB

WR-X

#1 Jeff Fuller
 #10 Nate Aspin

WR-Y

#1 Ryan Swope
 #10 Ryan Swope
 #10 Ryan Swope

LT

#1 Luke Joeckel
 #10 Luke Joeckel

LG

#1 Brian Thomas
 #10 Brian Thomas

C

#1 Patrick Lewis
 #10 Ben Compton

RG

#1 Chip Keene
 #10 Evan Eke

RT

#1 Jake Matthews
 #10 Jeffrey Hodge

TE

#1 Nehemiah Hicks
 #10 Hutson Pridemore

WR-Z

#1 Uzoma Nwachukwu
 #10 Uzoma Nwachukwu

RB

#1 Cyrus Gray
 #10 Cyrus Gray

QB

#1 Ryan Tannehill
 #10 Ryan Tannehill
 #10 Mott Joeckel

FB

#1 Michael Lamothe
 #10 Michael Lamothe

OFFENSIVE COACHES

Mike Sherman - Head Coach
 Tom Rossiey - Quarterbacks
 Randy Jordan - Running Backs
 Troy Walters - Wide Receivers
 Jim Turner - Offensive Line

SPECIAL TEAMS

K

#1 Randy Burack
 #10 Taylor Bernier

P

#1 Ryan Epperson
 #10 Drew Kaser

PR

#1 Kenric McNeal
 #10 Justin Harris

KR

#1 Coryell Judis
 #10 Ben Mims

KR

#1 Steven Campbell
 #10 Ryan Swope



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DEFENSE [DEFENSIVE LINE]

In a 3-4 scheme, the three down linemen set the rest of the defense up for success or failure. Seniors **Tony Jerod-Eddie** and **Jonathan Mathis** are a pair of defensive ends for the ages, and if Jerod-Eddie's high-impact performances during two-a-days carry over into the season, he could be the second consecutive Aggie defender from DeSoto selected in the first round of the NFL Draft. A former fleet-footed soccer player turned defensive end, big No. 83 is finally living up to his full potential under the tutelage of defensive line coach Terrell Williams. His counterpart, Mathis, was easily the most consistent defensive lineman throughout fall camp, and could find his name called in the 2012 NFL Draft as well with a strong senior campaign.

In the middle, senior **Eddie Brown** battled redshirt sopho-

more **Kirby Ennis** throughout two-a-days, and what was once an area of concern could potentially be the best starter-backup tandem along the defensive line. Senior **Ben Bass** and junior **Spencer Nealy** have continued to develop behind the anchored starters and will be relied upon in the Aggies' constant rotation at defensive end. The Louisiana duo of sophomore **Ivan Robinson** and redshirt freshman **Gavin Stansbury** showed flashes of improvement during fall camp, but there's quite a bit of distance between them and the upperclassmen. True freshman **Shayvion Hatten**, despite struggling with injuries and making the drastic jump from 1A high school to Division 1 football during fall camp, still managed to turn heads with his combination of size (6-4, 286) and athletic ability.



JONATHAN MATHIS (SR)

EDDIE BROWN (SR)

TONY JEROD-EDDIE (SR)

DEFENSE [DEFENSIVE LINE]

Projected Starters

TONY JEROD-EDDIE, DE (#83)
6-5, 301, SR-3I

EDDIE BROWN, NT
6-0, 310, SR-3I

JONATHAN MATHIS, DE (#92)
6-2, 293, SR-1I

The three big men along the defensive line will be the biggest defensive line for the Aggies since 2010.

First off the Bench

KIRBY ENNIS, NT (#40)
6-4, 286, SO-1I

The Aggies' defensive line will be looking for Kirby Ennis to play as much as he can in the early season. Ennis is a former 1A star who has shown great potential in the defensive line.

Preseason Honors

TONY JEROD-EDDIE, DE (#83)
Bretzschneider Award Best Linebacker

Position Grade

Three tough, consistent defensive linemen in the group.

Fun Fact

Junior nose tackle Eddie Brown switched his jersey number from 70 to 39 in honor of the 1939 Texas A&M national championship team.

Question Marks

Will any of the young linemen make a big enough impact this year to grab a starting job for next season?

AI's prediction: Now is the time for Ivan Robinson to show he can be a starter for the Aggies in Division 1.

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DAW FORT

DEFENSE [LINEBACKER]

Going into the final week of fall camp, the only linebacker that had cemented his starting role was junior **Sean Porter** on the outside. You can look at that one of two ways. On one hand, there's so much competition at all of the other positions that the Aggie coaches are having trouble organizing the depth chart. On the other, no one, including some returning starters, have managed to distance themselves from the rest of the pack. At inside linebacker, senior **Garrick Williams** spent some time in the doghouse during two-a-days for off-the-field transgressions and never spent a consistent amount of time running with the starters, but odds are he'll be back in a starting role sooner than later. The starter opposite Williams, however, will remain a mystery, perhaps all the way into conference play.

Junior **Jonathan Stewart** came into fall camp with a renewed sense of purpose, and alongside true freshman **Donnie Baggs**, who graduated high school a semester early and joined the Aggies for spring drills, saw the majority of reps with the first unit. Junior **Kyle Mangan** managed to get into some offseason troubles of his own, and spent the majority of fall camp in the doghouse as well. JUCO transfer **Steven Jenkins** hits like a ton of bricks and seems to play his best football in game situations, so he's worth keeping an eye on as a dark horse candidate among instant-impact defenders. Sophomore **Charlie Thomas**, possibly the team's fastest linebacker, cross-trained between inside and outside linebacker, and could line up at any of the four slots.

Last season, there were distinct differences between Von Miller's "Joker" and Porter's outside linebacker responsibilities. This year, there was a good deal of cross-training between the two positions, creating more depth and versatility among a bevy of talented prospects. Opposite Porter, junior **Caleb Russell**, a walk-on who shined in limited action last season, and sophomore **Damontre Moore**, arguably the player with the most potential on the entire roster, battled to fill Miller's shoes at Joker. A trio of talented true freshmen, Shaun Ward, Brandon Alexander



DAMONTRE MOORE (SO)

and Tyrell Taylor, each made a compelling case for playing time this season. That's no surprise for Alexander and Ward – two of the more decorated recruits in last year's signing day haul – but Taylor, a late addition to the class and an otherwise little-known prospect, showed more natural athleticism and pass-rushing ability than anyone could have anticipated.

DEFENSE [LINEBACKER]

Projected Starters

CALEB RUSSELL, JOKER (#4)
6-2, 238, JR-11

GARRICK WILLIAMS, ILB (#8)
6-2, 232, SR-3L

The last time Williams was in the doghouse, he was a walk-on. This time, he's a starter. Williams is a versatile player who can play inside or outside linebacker.

JONATHAN STEWART, ILB (#7)
6-4, 237, JR-2L

SEAN PORTER, OLB (#1)
6-2, 230, JR-2L

First off the Bench

DONNIE BAGGS, ILB (#36)
6-1, 225, FR-HS

DAMONTRE MOORE, JOKER (#94)
6-4, 245, SO-11

Waiting in the Wings

TYRELL TAYLOR, JOKER (#35)
6-4, 305, FR-HS

Taylor is a true freshman who has been in the doghouse a few times. He's a versatile player who can play inside or outside linebacker.

Preseason Honors

DAMONTRE MOORE, JOKER (#94)
College Football Performance Award

GARRICK WILLIAMS, ILB (#8)
College Football Performance Award

Fun Fact

Sean Porter is a two-year starter for the Aggies. He's a versatile player who can play inside or outside linebacker. He's a true freshman who has been in the doghouse a few times.

Position Grade

B-

There are too many questions to grade this position. The Aggies need to find a way to get more production out of their linebackers.

Question Marks

Who will be the starting inside linebackers by the time conference play begins?

AI's prediction: An experienced senior, Garrick Williams, should be able to hold on to one of the starting positions, and he'll give junior Jonathan Stewart a shot to take the other.

Who will fill the void left by Von Miller and Michael Hodges?

AI's prediction: It will take each player on the depth chart to make up for the pass-rushing and tackling that Miller and Hodges provided. But it will be up to junior Sean Porter to lead the way.



DEFENSE [DEFENSIVE BACK]

The depth and talent in the A&M secondary is enough to make defensive backs coach Chuck McMillian blush. A trio of seniors, **Coryell Judie**, **Terrence Frederick** and **Trent Hunter**, anchor the defensive secondary and combine for over 75 starts and 12 interceptions. Junior **Steven Campbell** struggled with a nagging foot injury all of last season, but provided a huge boost to the group when he was able to play, even at less than 100 percent. He'll battle fellow junior **Steven Terrell** for playing time this season, but will probably get the starting nod as long as he can stay healthy.

At corner, senior **Lionel Smith**, junior **Dustin Harris**, and sophomore **Toney Hurd, Jr.** each gave the talented Aggie wide receiving corps fits as they struggled to get open throughout fall camp. Smith, infamous for his punishing blow to a Baylor receiver last season, might be one of the best backup corners in the Big 12 along with Harris, who has a knack for making big plays. True freshman **Floyd Raven** looked as good as advertised during two-a-days. The highly touted cornerback would probably benefit from a redshirt season, but he may be too talented to keep off the field.

Safety **Howard Matthews** was one of the biggest storylines throughout two-a-days. Whether he's lining up in the defensive backfield or moving over to tailback during goal line situations, Matthews possesses such a natural feel for the game. Not only will Matthews not redshirt, he's likely going to be a very important piece of the Aggies' race toward a Big 12 title.

DEFENSE [DEFENSIVE BACK]

Projected Starters

TERRENCE FREDERICK, CB (#7)
5-10, 187, SR-3L

CORYELL JUDIE, CB (#5)
5-11, 190, SR-1L

STEVEN CAMPBELL, FS (#2)
6-0, 201, JR-2L

TRENT HUNTER, SS (#1)
5-10, 192, SR-3L

All-Conference accolades abound for this talented and experienced secondary.

First off the Bench

DUSTIN HARRIS, CB (#22)
6-0, 175, JR-2L

Waiting in the Wings

HOWARD MATTHEWS, FS (#31)
6-2, 206, FR-HS

There probably won't be much waiting for Matthews, as the Clear Springs standout has been nothing short of spectacular already.

Preseason Honors

DUSTIN HARRIS, CB (#22)
College Football Performance Award

CORYELL JUDIE, CB (#5)
All-Big 12 Team (media)
Bednarik Award (outstanding defensive player)
Bronko Nagurski Award (best defensive player)
College Football Performance Award
Jim Thorpe Award (best defensive back)

Position Grade

It's an A+ unit if everyone stays healthy.

Fun Fact

Seniors and multi-year starters Terrence Frederick and Trent Hunter were committed to Louisville and Kansas State, respectively, when Sherman convinced the Katy High School talents to switch to A&M.

Question Marks

Can Steven Campbell and Coryell Judie stay healthy?

AI's prediction: Both have battled injuries ever since they arrived on campus, so making it through the entire season without missing some time might be a tall order. However, there is more depth behind them this season, so they should be able to sit out some plays when necessary.

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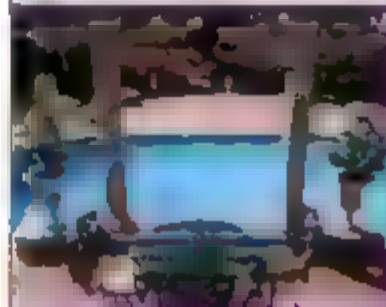
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Defensive MVP

CORYELL JUDE

Senior, 6'0", 230 lbs.

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Coryell Jude, a senior, was selected as corner back, returner, made a tremendous play on the Aggie football team in the second half of last season. He was chosen for his off a pass and returning for a touchdown again. He was chosen for his kickoff return for

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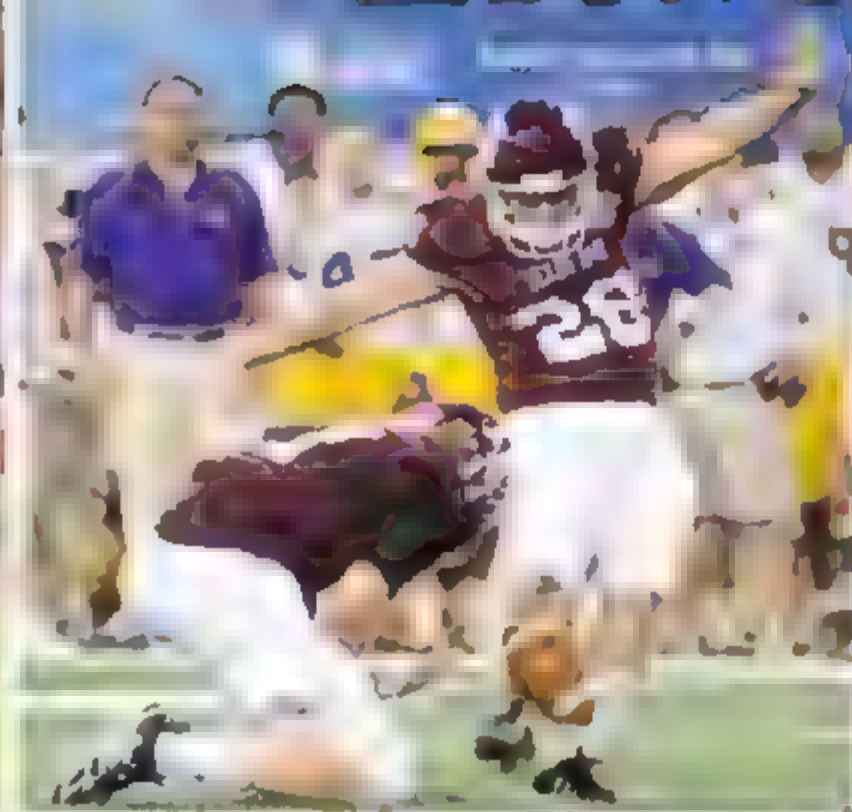
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SPECIAL TEAMS [K, P, KR, PR, DS]

Even though the Aggies are much improved in many aspects of their special teams play, it still remains the one glaring weakness on an otherwise championship caliber squad. If the potent Aggie offense can manage to minimize the number of attempted (emphasis intended) punts, their special teams could possibly even be considered an area of strength. The one wild card that could minimize the Ags' punting woes is if true freshman **Drew Kaser**, a highly touted but unproven commodity, can get healthy enough to contribute. Returners **Ken Wood** and **Ryan Epperson** lacked the consistency the coaches were looking for during two-a-days, leaving Kaser's window of opportunity wide open.

At kicker, senior **Randy Bullock** put together an extremely impressive fall camp and managed to fend off Under Armour All-American **Taylor Bertolet**. Bullock's 50-yard field goal in Austin last season will probably be good enough to keep him in the record books and Aggie hearts for a long time.

On a roster littered with dynamic playmakers, it's no sur-

prise that the Aggies have an abundance of options in the return game. Junior wide receiver **Kenric McNeal** emerged as a steady, consistent punt returner last season and is the incumbent for 2011, but junior **Dustin Harris** turned some heads last fall and during two-a-days, and is certain to get some opportunities in certain situations. Coming out of fall camp, junior **Steven Campbell** and senior **Coryell Judie** looked as though they'll be given the starting nod at kick returner, but when you have the school's all-time leader in kickoff return yardage on the sidelines (**Cyrus Gray**), it's a pretty good indicator that there are options to choose from.

The deep snapper position is one that is often overlooked in football unless something goes wrong, but for Aggie coaches, snapping was one area of concern during fall camp. However, junior **Ben Bredthauer** was very consistent last season as the team's deep snapper, so the Ags will be in good shape if he picks up where he left off when the lights come on this fall.

SPECIAL TEAMS [K, P, KR, PR, DS]

Projected Starters

BEN BREDTHAUER, DS (#95)
6-4, 250, JR-21

RANDY BULLOCK, K (#28)
5-9, 212, SR-21

A reliable field goal kicker is worth their weight in gold. Bullock's ability to improve on his consistency has been remarkable, and he's now an asset in the Aggie arsenal.

RYAN EPPERSON, P (#48)
6-2, 191, JR-21

CORYELL JUDIE, KR (#5)
5-11, 190, SR-11

STEVEN CAMPBELL, KR (#2)
6-0, 201, JR-21

KENRIC MCNEAL, PR (#5)
6-1, 184, JR-21

First off the Bench

DREW KASER, P (#38)
6-3, 220, FR-HS

Kaser will have every opportunity to earn the punting job when he gets healthy.

Waiting in the Wings

TAYLOR BERTOLET, K (#91)
5-9, 165, FR-HS

Even though they have a reliable senior kicker in Bullock, Bertolet might be too valuable to red-shirt. Gargantuan leg is an understatement.

Preseason Honors

RANDY BULLOCK, K (#28)
Lou Groza Award (outstanding placekicker)

CORYELL JUDIE, KR (#5)
All-Big 12 Team (media)
College Football Performance Awards

DUSTIN HARRIS, PR (#22)
College Football Performance Awards

Fun Fact

True freshman **Taylor Bertolet** was hoisted upon the shoulders of his teammates and carried off the field after kicking a game winning field goal in the Under Armour All-American game.

Position Grade

B-

The return game and kicking game are vastly improved, but punting remains uncertain and deep snapping is a slight concern.

Question Marks

Is freshman **Drew Kaser** the answer at punter?

AJ's prediction: There will be some growing pains as Kaser gets healthy and comfortable with the pressure of being a Division I punter, but by mid-season he will have put all that behind him along with the Aggies' punting woes.

TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL [FIRST FOUR GAMES]

SMU Mustangs

WHEN

Sunday, September 4 at 6:30 pm (FSN)

WHERE

College Station (Kyle Field)

SERIES RECORD

A&M 41-29-7

Last meeting: A&M 66, SMU 8 (2005, College Station)



KEY QUESTION

How will the Aggie defense – sans Von Miller – stack up against a relatively high-powered Mustang offense?

WHAT TO EXPECT

The Mustangs have undoubtedly had this one circled on their calendar since last season ended. SMU may keep it close for a while, but the Aggies will use their depth to pull away in the second half.

PLAYER TO WATCH

QB Kyle Padron (JR) – In 2010, Padron set the SMU single-season records for passing attempts (508), completions (302), yards (3,828) and touchdowns (31). It will be interesting to see if some previous injuries have any lingering effect on the junior QB.

FUN FACT

In the 2005 meeting, the 12th Man kickoff coverage unit took the field for the first time since a 73-10 victory over Baylor in 2003.

Idaho Vandals

Last Season: 15-3-1 (Pac-12 WAC)

WHEN

Saturday, September 17 at 6 pm

WHERE

College Station (Kyle Field)

SERIES RECORD

First meeting

The Vandals are a combined 0-7 against schools who have played in the Big 12.



KEY QUESTION

Will the Aggie offensive players get to stretch their legs in preparation for the Oklahoma State game?

WHAT TO EXPECT

While the Vandals are certain to play inspired football at Kyle Field, the outcome of this one should be decided by the second quarter.

PLAYER TO WATCH

LB Robert Siavii (SR) – Recorded a team-leading 81 tackles in 2010, along with 3.5 sacks and an interception.

FUN FACTS

The Vandals play football, basketball, tennis and track in the William H. Kibbie – ASU Activity Center, a.k.a. the Kibbie Dome, which is the smallest home stadium in Division I football, seating 16,000. Texas A&M athletic director Bill Byrne grew up in Idaho.

Oklahoma State Cowboys

WHEN

Saturday, September 24 at TBD

WHERE

College Station (Kyle Field)

SERIES RECORD

A&M 17-9

Last meeting: OSU 38, A&M 25 (2010, Stillwater)



KEY QUESTION

Will the A&M defense be able to slow down the Cowboys' potent offense enough for the Aggies to prevail?

WHAT TO EXPECT

Much like last year, this game will feature two of the best offenses in college football. However, this time the game is at Kyle Field and the Aggies will make the plays at the end to win the game.

PLAYER TO WATCH

WR Justin Blackmon (JR) – The 2010 Biletnikoff Award winner and unanimous All-American broke OSU records in yards (1,782), touchdown catches (20) and receptions (111) last season.

FUN FACT

OSU's mascot is based on Frank Eaton, a cowboy and Deputy U.S. Marshall. Eaton earned the nickname "Pistol Pete" while honing his shooting skills in an effort to avenge his father's murder.

Arkansas Razorbacks

Last Season: 10-6-1 (SEC)

WHEN

Saturday, October 1 at TBD

WHERE

Arlington (Cowboys Stadium)

SERIES RECORD

Arkansas 40-24-3

Last meeting: Arkansas 24, A&M 17 (2010, Arlington)



KEY QUESTION

Will this game alleviate concerns about Texas A&M's ability to compete in the SEC?

WHAT TO EXPECT

Like last year, this one will likely come down to the final play, only this time it might finally be the Aggies' turn to celebrate at Cowboys Stadium.

PLAYER TO WATCH

DE Jake Bequette (SR) – Bequette enters 2011 as No. 10 on the Razorbacks' all-time career sacks list with 13.5. A preseason first-team All-SEC selection, Bequette is on the Bednarik, Nagurski, Lombardi and Hendricks Award watch lists.

FUN FACT

Jerry Jones was an All-SWC offensive lineman and cocaptain of the 1964 national championship team at Arkansas. 

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HealthGrades, an independent healthcare ratings organization, has named **St. Joseph Regional Health Center** #1 in the state of Texas for overall orthopedic services for 2011, which includes joint replacement and spine surgery. **St. Joseph** also ranks among the top 5% of hospitals nationwide in orthopedic services. The nation's nearly 5,000 hospitals were included in this annual study.

If you are considering elective joint replacement or spine surgery, call **979.776.2978** to learn more about the difference **St. Joseph** can make.



Joint Replacement
www.st-joseph.org/jointuniversity
Spine Surgery



The St. Joseph
Difference
A Ministry of St. Joseph's Healthcare
www.st-joseph.org